



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/658,229	09/09/2003	Sterling Shyun-Dii Du	O2-00.15.CON	2695
32047	7590	08/18/2006	EXAMINER	
GROSSMAN, TUCKER, PERREAULT & PFLEGER, PLLC 55 SOUTH COMMERICAL STREET MANCHESTER, NH 03101			PARK, ILWOO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2182	

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding..

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/658,229

Applicant(s)

DU ET AL.

Examiner

Ilwoo Park

Art Unit

2182

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 42-60 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 42-60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/7/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 42-60 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 42, 49, 50, 53, 59, and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jacobs et al. [6,279,056 B1].

As for claim 42, Jacobs et al teach a controller for enabling [col. 2, lines 7-21] audio files to be played on a computer subsystem [e.g., CD-ROM drive 28 in fig. 1] of a computer system when said computer system is in an inactive state, said controller comprising:

a switch having a first state [PC mode in col. 4, lines 36-42] and a second state [audio CD mode in col. 4, lines 27-35], said switch in said first state decoupling [col. 5, lines 29-37] said controller from said computer subsystem, said switch in said second state coupling [col. 5, lines 37-39] said controller to said computer subsystem in response to said computer system being in said inactive state [without running operating system in col. 4, lines 32-35; col. 4, lines 59-64]; and

a drive interface [e.g., mini CD-ROM device driver 68 in fig. 2] configured to interface with a drive of said computer subsystem depending on a state of said switch, said drive interface configured to access audio data on said drive when said switch is in said second state.

4. As for claim 49, Jacobs et al teach a function key interface responsive to a plurality of function keys, said function keys generating user commands to said controller through said function key interface [col. 5, line 66-col. 6, line 7].

5. As for claim 50, Jacobs et al teach a processor for controlling said state of said switch [see fig. 3].

6. As for claim 53, Jacobs et al teach said audio data comprising non-compressed audio data [conventional audio CD player in col. 1, lines 45-49].

7. As for claim 59, Jacobs et al teach a method of playing audio files in a computer system having a computer subsystem, said method comprising:
detecting when said computer system is in an inactive state [audio CD mode in col. 4, lines 18-35]; and coupling [col. 5, lines 37-39] an audio controller to said computer subsystem when said computer system is in said inactive state, said audio controller configured to control access and playing of said audio files on said computer subsystem.

8. As for claim 60, Jacobs et al teach detecting when said computer system is in an active state [PC mode in col. 4, lines 18-42]; and decoupling [col. 5, lines 29-37] said audio controller from said computer subsystem when said computer system is in said active state.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 43-48, 51, 52, and 54-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobs et al. [6,279,056 B1] in view of Lee [US 6,292,440 B1].

As for claim 43, Jacobs et al do not expressly disclose said audio data comprises compressed audio data and said controller further comprises decoder circuit configured to receive said compressed audio data and output decompressed audio data. Lee teaches an audio controller [MP3 car player] having a decoder circuitry receiving compressed audio data and outputting a decompressed audio data [col. 1, lines 58-62]. At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to implement the cited reference in order to provide a capability of not only playing a conventional audio files but also playing compressed audio files.

11. As for claims 44 and 55, Lee teaches said decoder further comprising a buffer memory for temporary storage of said decompressed audio data [FIFO 507 in fig. 2].

12. As for claims 45 and 56, Lee teaches said buffer memory comprising a first-in-first-out (FIFO) memory [FIFO 507 in fig. 2].

13. As for claims 46 and 57, Lee teaches said decoder further comprising a digital to analog circuit to receive said decompressed audio data and to generate an analog audio data signal [col. 1, line 66-col. 2 line 3].

Art Unit: 2182

14. As for claims 47 and 58, Lee teaches said decoder further comprising an interface circuit to interface said decompressed audio data with an external digital to analog converter [Digital/Analog Converter 600 in fig. 1].

15. As for claim 48, Jacobs et al teach an LCD interface to generate signals to an LCD display [LCD bias/ctrl 54 in fig. 1]. However, Jacobs et al teach the LCD display displaying directory data associated with said drive. Lee teaches an LCD display for displaying directory data associated with a drive [col. 2, lines 17-20: LCD interface unit 301 in fig. 1]. At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to implement the cited reference in order to increase user friendliness for playing audio files.

16. As for claim 51, Jacobs et al teach a processor for controlling said state of said switch [see fig. 3] and Lee teaches a processor for controlling said decoder [fig. 1].

17. As for claim 52, Lee teaches a flash memory for storing data and commands for use by said processor for controlling said decoder circuitry [col. 4, lines 6-9].

18. As for claim 54, Jacobs et al teach a controller for enabling [col. 2, lines 7-21] audio files to be played on a computer subsystem [e.g., CD-ROM drive 28 in fig. 1] of a computer system when said computer system is in an inactive state, said controller comprising:

a switch having a first state [PC mode in col. 4, lines 36-42] and a second state [audio CD mode in col. 4, lines 27-35], said switch in said first state decoupling [col. 5, lines 29-37] said controller from said computer subsystem, said switch in said second state coupling [col. 5, lines 37-39] said controller to said computer subsystem in

response to said computer system being in said inactive state [without running operating system in col. 4, lines 32-35; col. 4, lines 59-64]; and

a drive interface [e.g., mini CD-ROM device driver 68 in fig. 2] configured to interface with a drive of said computer subsystem depending on a state of said switch, said drive interface configured to access audio data on said drive when said switch is in said second state.

However, Jacobs et al do not disclose the audio data on the drive is compressed audio data and a decoder circuitry configured to receive the compressed audio data and output decompressed audio data. Lee teaches an audio controller [MP3 car player] having a decoder circuitry receiving compressed audio data and outputting a decompressed audio data [col. 1, lines 58-62]. At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to implement the cited reference in order to provide a capability of not only playing a conventional audio files but also playing compressed audio files.

Conclusion

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ilwoo Park whose telephone number is (571) 272-4155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on (571) 272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Art Unit: 2182

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ILWOO PARK
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Ilwoo Park

August 14, 2006